

BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS
OF THE SEASON'S
LATEST BOOKS

Conditions in the Ottoman Empire—A Scout in Gallipoli—A German Deserter.
New Fiction by Robert W. Chambers, Mariz T. Davies, Temple Bailey, and Others.

LEAVING THE LEVANT. (The
Pilgrim Press.) By Joseph K.
Greene. (\$1.50.)

This work of Dr. Greene is an admirable companion in interest and information to the earlier volumes of Dr. George Washburn on the Turks and Constantinople. Dr. Greene passed through much the same experiences of missionary life in the Near East as Dr. Washburn, and enjoying similar opportunities for a close and intimate study of conditions in the Ottoman Empire has written with the same knowledge and enthusiasm.

Dr. Greene evidently endeavors to treat the Turk with fairness, or at least to give him the benefit of the doubt. But it is impossible for him to have anything but abhorrence for the Turk's part in the horrible sufferings and barbarities that were inflicted upon the unfortunate Armenians.

"We need the Armenians," said the Governor-General of Cilicia. "They are our doctors, lawyers, merchants and bankers. Only one in a while we must give them a lesson and teach them to know their place."

A Mayor of Smyrna, a man of ability, said: "It is absurd to think that we can govern the Armenians, a people so much slier than we are."

Education has been the great need of the Turks. To meet this need one of the reasons for the establishment of the different Christian schools in this Mohammedan land. The growth and progress of the schools were often bitterly opposed, and Dr. Greene mentions institution after institution that had been destroyed in Asia Minor in recent years. In spite of this opposition many of the more advanced Turkish children to Christian schools and did much to encourage the teachers. There has been a decided change in parts of Turkey regarding the education of girls. Many Ottoman officials believing a better education of the women one of the urgent needs of the country, Dr. Greene writes of a meeting of the Turkish women of Constantinople, which was presided over by a son-in-law of Abdul Hamid, Prince Sabah-ed-din, who made the principal address. "No European could have pleaded for female education with more force and eloquence," the Turkish women who attended laid aside

their veils "and with beaming faces repeatedly clapped the speakers like a bevy of enthusiastic girls."

WITH A R. P. SCOUT IN GALLI-
POLI. (E. P. Dutton & Co.) By
R. W. Chambers. (\$1.75.)

At the first opening of "With a R. P. Scout in Gallipoli" (E. P. Dutton & Co.) there comes a high-sounding of the heart-strings. The smooth-tongued, clean-cut, eye-veiling author in black looking out of the frontispiece, the brief letter, ending as a preface which ends, "It was imperative to offer conditions. I concentrate you on being the father of this gallant officer," and finally at the last the abrupt breaking off of the manuscript in the middle of the sentence, "The author was killed in action November 19, 1915."

Young Priestman was a scout master who early in the war enlisted "to do his bit." The first part of the book is given up to his letters home from the training camp with his regiment, "The Belles Bulldogs." He is always lively and cheerful, no very profound in his observations and rather youthful in his humor.

More significant are his letters describing the passage out to the Dardanelles on the Aquitania and the weeks spent in camp on a little Greek island. "The landing at Suvla Bay," the first time under fire, the first experience with death and wounded in the trenches are told with a surface impetuosity and a depth of feeling truly British. But some way after that night at Suvla Bay, and the strange march to the beach, the book becomes the dark hillside of the English camp disappeared. Something happened that night, and the boy never came back. It was a man who wrote the rest of the letters, telling quite simply and without complaint of the trench life, of the supply train that never came, and the plans that never worked out. And it was a man, a very real and gallant man, who volunteered for a hard bit of work and "fell, fighting to the last." And he lies there to-day with thousands of other "good Scouts" in the "Peninsula of the Dead" in the "Peninsula of the Dead."

A GERMAN DESERTER'S WAR EXPERIENCES. (E. W. Haeberle.) (\$1.)

An effort to give the reading public a first-hand account of the individual soldier's story of slaughter and hardship is given in *German Deserter's War Experiences* (E. W. Haeberle). The author, a son-in-law of Abdul Hamid, Prince Sabah-ed-din, who made the principal address. "No European could have pleaded for female education with more force and eloquence," the Turkish women who attended laid aside

their veils "and with beaming faces repeatedly clapped the speakers like a bevy of enthusiastic girls."

Until almost the moment of crossing the Belgian frontier, he says, the German soldiers had no idea with whom they were at war, or whom they were to fight. At no other moments the fruits of military education have been so clearly before my mind," he says. "The soldier is told, 'The Belgian is your enemy,' and he has to believe it. If they had told us 'The Hollander is your enemy' we would have believed that too; we would have been shot by the Belgians, and would have shot them by order."

There are many pages of description of bloody engagements, of the sacking of villages, and the miseries of trench life. Most significant is the change in feeling from the horror with which the soldier viewed the first man he killed in battle to the complete calmness with which he was asked to participate in the growing horrors.

SOME NEW FICTION.
THE DARK STAR. (Appletons.) By Robert W. Chambers. (\$1.50.)

The dip into mysticism in which the author indulges in this story is not a new thing. It is a story of a man who, after a long and eventful life, finds himself in a strange and mysterious world, where he is treated as a god. The story is told in a simple and direct manner, with a strong sense of the supernatural.

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. (The Penn Publishing Company.) By Temple Bailey. (\$1.35.)

The delights of the Maryland shores of Chesapeake Bay are described by Temple Bailey in *Mistress Anne* (The Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia). The reader joins with her in acquiring a large store of information regarding orange growing, the diseases and accidents to which the fruit is subject, and the difficulty of marketing it. The young woman also becomes acquainted with a grocer and with some queer specimens of Southern manhood. The fight to save her orchard is exciting and she deserves her victory, even if she must accept assistance.

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LETTERS AND DIARY OF ALAN SEGER. (An intimate personal record of the American poet-hero's life during the war, composed of letters and of a recently discovered diary.) \$1.35 net.

PLAYS BY JACINTO BENAVENTE. Translated with an Introduction, by Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.50 net.

For Sale at All Bookstores.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

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Jacinto Benavente, whose plays from the Spanish are published by Scribners.

Robert W. Chambers indulges in *The Dark Star* (Appletons) serves merely to prolong the story and to confuse the reader, and the connection of the mystery with the present war is somewhat forced. The attractive young woman, however, all fascinated by her amiable hero and a wild chase with a prize which is snatched at every moment, lend abundant excitement to the tale. The descriptions and the repartee between the youth and the several young women show the author's high love making which we have been taught to expect from Mr. Chambers. The young man's inability to understand the importance of the papers in his possession, a state of mind which the reader will share in spite of the author's assertions, renders the plotting of the whole somewhat less than satisfactory. The story is a very elaborate one in a busy restaurant with a complete demolition of all movable that seems borrowed from the C. Chaplin films. The young woman, the hero marries the least attractive of the three, and the New York roughs could have easily been left out, which would have been an improvement. The story is by no means Mr. Chambers at his best, but it holds the attention, is bright in parts and will make excellent summer reading.

OUT OF A CLEAR SKY. (Harpers.) By Mariz Thompson Davies. (\$1.)

A foreign young girl speaking quaint artificial English tells how she drops out of a train in a desolate spot in Tennessee in order to escape enemies who are pursuing her in Maria Thompson Davies's *Out of a Clear Sky* (Harpers). She has the luck to charge a gallant youth of that region with a horse and a dog. He saves charge of her and leads her through the woods while they become acquainted. She meets also a capable small boy and a delightful old lady, who help to Americanize her rapidly. The ease with which her foes follow her track and the high-handed methods being to fairly take rather than to the United States, but it is necessary to hasten with her troubles as the story is short. The adventures are all in the open or on a farm, the people are very pleasant and there is humor and fun to season the sentimentality of one in a tale to say which is a war into a pretty love tale.

MALLET'S GROVE. (Appletons.) By Marion Hill. (\$1.10.)

A warning to city people not to enter blindly into agricultural pursuits is conveyed by Marion Hill in *Mallet's Grove* (Appletons). A young woman, who is a graduate of a college, goes to a small farm in Florida to support herself by her own hands. She finds that the life is not so simple as she had imagined, and she is forced to face the realities of the situation. The story is told in a simple and direct manner, with a strong sense of the supernatural.

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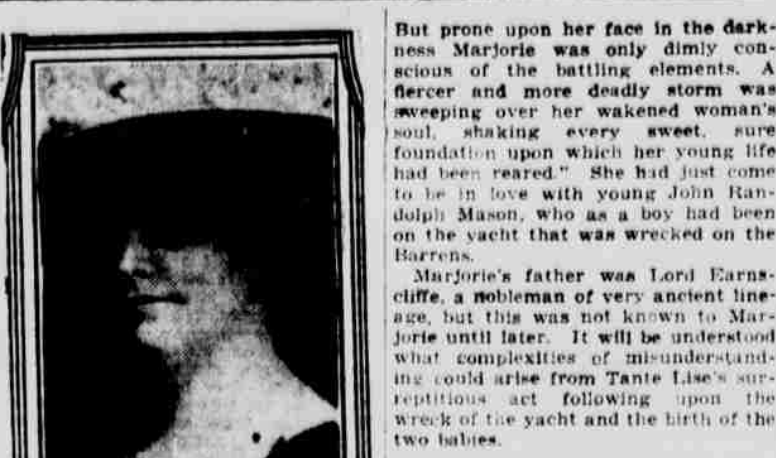
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Maria Thompson Davies, author of "Out of a Clear Sky." (Harpers.)

threatened with a "doom" that had overhung her race for a hundred years; the storm that swept over the "Barrens," the wreck of the yacht and the death of another young mother who had been on board; the substitution of Tante Lise, the aged nurse, of a living baby for a baby that had died; the uncanny ability of Tante Lise to see into the seeds of time—there is plenty in the opening part of the story to give the reader the real creepy feeling.

The substituted baby, growing up into a beautiful young womanhood, was a dream of course from the "doom," but Donald Carmichael, the New York millionaire, did not know this. Marjorie was recalled abruptly from her vacation in Virginia. Donald Carmichael lay dying at Duvallion, having been stabbed with a poniard by his wife one of her insane fits occasioned by the "doom." Marjorie reached his bedside in time to receive his last words. He said: "You must never love, never marry, Marjorie, lest—lest your mother's, your mother's—"

Here the end came. Without the storm raged in fierce fury. The wind shrieked, the waves fell in tempestuous torrents, the thunder rolled far up on the sand dunes.

THE HUNDRETH CHANCE. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.) By Ethel M. Dell. (\$1.50.)

A cheating, dishonest young girl, as a fascinating heroine as well as the author in Ethel M. Dell's *The Hundredth Chance* (G. P. Putnam's Sons). He plays the part of Mephistopheles to his own satisfaction, but occasionally meets with proper punishment at the hands of vigorous men. The young woman is an indignant and rather unreasonably haughty aristocrat, who, after being thrashed brutally by a drunken stepfather, marries a kind horse trainer, in order to secure support and protection for herself and her crippled brother. She has high standards of propriety, and is devoted most of her time to misreading her worthy but plebeian husband and to phylandering with the noble villain. She plays with fire until she is pretty well scorched, but saves herself at the last moment, when she recognizes the greatness of her husband's love and admits to herself the meanness of the man who has dazzled her. There are bits of brutality in this tale which are probably mistaken for strength. The husband's conduct is so admirable as a rule that it is difficult to sympathize with the wife's mental struggles.

CECILIA OF THE PINK ROSES. (George H. Doran Company.) By Katharine Haviland Taylor. (\$1.25.)

The little heroine of Katharine Haviland Taylor's *Cecilia of the Pink Roses* (George H. Doran Company) is the daughter of a laboring man who lost her mother early and must look after her father and her little brother. So long as she remains a child and poor the reader will be delighted with her and with her good friend the old priest. The laborer, however, makes money and becomes very rich, the girl retains her good qualities and hard sense and her brother is snobbish and has to be saved from going to the dogs. The account of her prosperous and grown-up days, though it includes a love story and is interesting in itself, is not as attractive as that of her childhood in the tenements before she had learned to use the English of good society.

A DOMINION DISMISSED. (Robert McBride & Co.) By A. S. Nell. (\$1.25.)

The same charming descriptions of Scottish life will be found in A. S. Nell's *A Dominion Dismissed* (Robert McBride & Co., New York). That marked his *Domination Dismissed* properly enough turned out of his school he returns to the village and works on a farm. This enables him to criticize his successors' work and methods, and to do so with a keen eye and a keen heart. There is a good deal of sense in much of his criticism of teaching methods for the child's individuality undoubtedly suffers from the mechanical methods. At the same time the love of discipline and the love of order is also real and cannot be dismissed by the suggestion that schools only train factory hands. There is plenty of debatable ground in the little book with respect to the school, but the book is a good one, and the love story that is brought in is very pretty. Those who enjoyed Mr. Nell's first book will like this one too.

PAULINE MARTIN. (D. D. Thompson.) By Pauline Martin. (\$1.50.)

A woman's life in the British navy is described in *Pauline Martin* (D. D. Thompson). The story is told in a simple and direct manner, with a strong sense of the supernatural. The author, a woman, has written a book that is both interesting and instructive. The story is told in a simple and direct manner, with a strong sense of the supernatural. The author, a woman, has written a book that is both interesting and instructive. The story is told in a simple and direct manner, with a strong sense of the supernatural. The author, a woman, has written a book that is both interesting and instructive.

A PEACE IN THE SKY. (The Page Company.) By Mrs. Henry Backus. (\$1.35.)

A pretty Hungarian immigrant gets tired of working in a tobacco factory and wishes to become American. She gets the chance to become a nursemaid in a wealthy family, and a description of the war is given. The story is told in a simple and direct manner, with a strong sense of the supernatural. The author, a woman, has written a book that is both interesting and instructive. The story is told in a simple and direct manner, with a strong sense of the supernatural. The author, a woman, has written a book that is both interesting and instructive.

THE STUDENT IN ARMS. (The Student in Arms strikes a high, clear note of spiritual understanding. It is the note that is to lead us out of all this turmoil into peace. It is a bugle-note, a white flame, a rift in the leaden sky of war.)

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A LESSON IN MANNERS
By THEODOSIA GARRISON
Of The Vigilantes.

We have neglected certain obligations. Albeit in a purely social way. One should return a neighbor's salutation.

And make a party call a certain day. America has failed in manners. Is it a trifle that we lack in etiquette? Surely 'tis time that we returned the visit of Lafayette.

Our social calendar is much neglected. And "bush" is not always an excuse; some adequate return might be expected. And courtesy may rust for lack of use. Suppose, in manner both polite and hearty.

Before this suitable occasion goes. We manage to return that little party of Rochambeau's.

health. All thought of the girl's marrying is dropped, as she fears her nervous insanity. She loses her place because she interrupts her mistress's utilization of Hungarians by praising Kossuth. Then she takes to aesthetic dancing, which she believes great success, is received into society and makes money. Then she meets her doctor again, he declares his love and she is able to dispel the insanity phantoms. There is little to show anything peculiarly American in the energetic young woman's progress. The author discusses a variety of subjects, from art and literature to sociology and politics, and to exposing the faults of the wealthy people she describes. This detracts from such interest as the story has.

THE SON OF HIS FATHER. (George W. Jacobs & Co.) By Ridgwell Cullum. (\$1.35.)

The Joyce mood rarely drops from the hero of Ridgwell Cullum's *The Son of His Father* (George W. Jacobs & Co., Philadelphia). He is the idle son of one of the richest men in the country, who properly demands that he set to work to change his good. The young man denounces the methods by which his father has acquired his wealth and engages to win a stated sum in a short time. He goes west and by a succession of accidents meets men who are opposing his father and also a desirable young woman. He thrashes his father's agent and manager to kidnap the old gentleman and keep him prisoner till he agrees to the business deal which enables him to win his bet. There is much abuse of the men who make money and of their methods and a deficiency of honor on all sides in this not wildly interesting tale.

TREASURE. (Henry Holt & Co.) By Gertrude S. Mathews. (\$2.)

In the form of a story of a hunt for a gold mine, *Treasure*, by Gertrude S. Mathews (Henry Holt & Co.) is a description of the back country in Dutch Guiana. The narrator was a young man interested in the botany and the animal life of the land as he was in the search for minerals, so that the lively account of the daily happenings and the doings of the various members of the party is interrupted at any moment to describe the habits of insects, the growth of larger trees, or the plants, flowers and trees. The quest for treasure serves as the thread that holds together this mass of interesting information. The author gives individuality to the natives who form his party; so his story in the main even if it is slightly dropped up to work in the background and has the interest that all descriptions of pioneer work in new lands have. The book is illustrated with many photographs.

GIDDY MRS. GOODYER. (John Lane Company.) By Mrs. Horace Trevellick. (\$1.25.)

Mrs. Trevellick's story is good comedy. The old lady's interfering influence, hereditary alert, thwarting her giddy enterprises at every dangerous turn, is made by the novelist's skilful hand to operate very amusingly. We may thank Mrs. Trevellick for a restoring variation in treating of a regular old maid, when she has a good number of the new novels have saddened us, and it is remarkable what refreshment is imparted by this one. Mrs. Goodyer did not like living among the mines and the miners in South Africa. Doubtless her husband was well enough when he married her in England, but as a miner in South Africa she was surrounded by mud and grease and tar, his hair in disorder, his fingernails sadly unclean, he came to be intolerable. Leaving Smutzy she went to Johannesburg to get a new start. She found the place a staid man with old-fashioned ideas, destined to undertake the job for her. He lectured her instead and refused to take any fee for some highly disagreeable work. Mrs. Rubenstein was more accommodating. He swindled her out of £5 without demur.

Adventures are to the adventures, and they crowded thickly upon this heroine. Her meeting with Phoebe Van Buren, friend of earlier days, now a cross widow with a milliner's shop in Johannesburg's wicked quarter, involved a number of sharp surprises. She loved money, and she loved Mr. Phoebe Van Buren, who was a man of a high note she fore the precious paper into little bits under that practitioner's hand. Mrs. Rubenstein's violence that sent Mrs. Rubenstein into a fit. Lady Phelan's dinner party was a wonder, and when Capt. Pacer stopped his automobile on a lonely moonlit road and kissed Mrs. Goodyer he was treated to a surprise that shook his understanding and will please the reader. The excursion of Mrs. Goodyer, Capt. Pacer

and Farrar Worsley to the little island called Eland's Drift, on the road between Johannesburg and Pretoria, is an illustration of what frequently falls the best laid schemes. Who could have foreseen that the Captain's "whiz bang," or that the few South African thunderstorms would be so countered, or that Farrar Worsley would be kept away from home all night, or that Mrs. Worsley, in a rage, would get a telegram from Mrs. Goodyer's husband's partner at the mine and take to telephoning, with the purely accidental consequence that Farrar Worsley, a fairly worthy gentleman, would be caught telling a wrong story?

But the good angels of these people did not neglect too grievously their proper business. Mrs. Worsley's elegant lady and adorable and adoring wife that she was, had her period of unhappiness. She was in some ways a better playmate to her husband than he was a playmate to her. Farrar Worsley had much to thank her for; still she was not sure that he was thankful. It was bitter to be made aware that Mrs. Goodyer, her dear friend, had turned his head.

SPANISH PLAYWRIGHT IS ALSO ACTOR AND ORATOR

In addition to his skill as a playwright, Jacinto Benavente, whose volume of plays is about to be introduced to the American public through a translation by John Garrett Underhill (Scribners), is an actor of real ability and an orator of quite a high order. He made a poetic fete at Lucerne, Florida, in his academic reunions. In popular halls, schools and workmen's clubs, he has delivered in 1915 in the Madrid conservatory on the theatre in Spain, attracted wide attention and in these severe criticism of contemporary stage art, greatly interested managers and actors throughout the country.

In the Madrid *Imparcial* he writes every Monday a causerie, called *Los Semejanzas* (Table Talk), which consists of a thoughtful comment on the events of the week.

A New Western Story.

A second printing of Mary E. Chase's new book, *Virginia of Elk Creek Valley*, has just been ordered on press by the Page Company. The book is a sequel to "The Girl from the Big Horn Country," which has already run through six printings.

A GREAT NOVEL

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